

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle ~~(1)~~, comprising a base body ~~(2)~~ made of polymer material, as well as metallic additional components ~~(4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11)~~ ~~as part of a slaughtering line~~, particularly for slaughtering pigs, whereby the polymer material is, ~~in particular~~, a vulcanized rubber mixture, comprising a rubber component as well as mixture ingredients, wherein

the rubber mixture is free of plasticizers and the proportion of the rubber component amounts to 10 to 70 wt.-% with reference to the total mass of the rubber mixture; and

an active inhibitor is mixed into the polymer material, which prevents the growth of microorganisms, the inhibitor being uniformly distributed in the rubber mixture and the proportion of the inhibitor amounts to 0.1 to 10 wt.-% with reference to the total mass of the rubber mixture.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 1, wherein the inhibitor is difficult to dissolve in water.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 1, wherein a carrier that is charged with the inhibitor is mixed into the polymer material, specifically with the formation of a carrier/inhibitor adduct.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 3, wherein the carrier is a molecular sieve, particularly on the basis of a sodium-aluminum silicate, specifically with the formation of a molecular sieve/inhibitor adduct.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 3, wherein the carrier consists of fibers, specifically with the formation of a fiber/inhibitor adduct.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to

claim 7 1, wherein the proportion of the inhibitor is 0.5 to 5 wt.-%.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 1, wherein the rubber component is an ethylene-propylene-diene mixed polymerizate (EPDM) or nitrile rubber (NBR), particularly an EPDM/NBR blend.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 1, wherein the rubber component is silicone rubber.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 1, wherein the rubber component is butyl rubber (IIR).

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 1, wherein the rubber component is a halogenated rubber.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 13, wherein the halogenated rubber is chlorobutyl rubber (CIIR) or bromobutyl rubber (BIIR).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): Hair removal paddle according to claim 11, wherein the rubber component is non-blended.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to claim 1, wherein with reference to the total mass of the polymer material, the proportion of the ~~polymer or rubber or blend~~ component, ~~respectively, is 10 to 70 wt.-%, particularly 30 to 70 wt.-%.~~

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): Hair removal paddle according to claim 16, wherein the proportion of the ~~polymer or rubber or blend~~ component, ~~respectively,~~ is 40 to 55 wt.-%.